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The Children's Newspaper, Week Ending May 17, 1958

MAURITIUS PICTURES—*See page 6*

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Fourpence | FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE | No. 2043, May 17, 1958

FLYING TO THE EDGE OF OUTER SPACE

100 miles above the earth in a rocket plane

In September 1956, travelling at a speed of 2100 miles an hour in a rocket plane called X-2, an American test pilot flew to a height of 24 miles above the earth. That was wonderful enough, but plans (approved by the U.S. Government) are now being made to send another rocket plane, the X-15, to a height of 100 miles. And if all goes well this is how it will be achieved.

A STRATOFORTRESS will roar away from its Californian base and climb to a height of about 50,000 feet. Snug beneath it will be the X-15, looking rather like a huge propelling pencil with tiny wings. Strapped inside the instrument-packed cockpit of the X-15 will be an American test pilot, making a final check on his equipment.

At 50,000 feet the X-15 will be dropped away from the Stratofortress, and under the power of its rocket motor will hurtle upwards at a speed of perhaps 4000 miles an hour.

The tremendous surge of power will force the pilot tightly against his seat. In fact, the pressure will be so great that special devices will be provided so that he can keep X-15 on its upward course merely with movements of his wrists.

REACTION CONTROLS

The rocket plane will roar upwards in a gigantic curve, and, it is hoped, reach a height of 100 miles above the earth. When it reaches the very thin air existing at great heights, new "reaction controls" will come into play. These consist of hydrogen peroxide jets set in the nose to correct pitch, and in the wing tips to stop rolling. Acting like jets of steam, they will keep the plane on an even keel in its flight path.

To familiarise himself with handling the X-15, the pilot will have spent many hours in a special flight simulator corresponding with the X-15's performance in every detail. Connected to four electronic "brains," the simulator showed how the X-15 would respond at various airspeeds, altitudes, and stresses. The pilot will also have had the opportunity of using the "reaction controls" designed for great altitudes.

Descending will be the most hazardous part of the flight, for as the machine re-enters the earth's blanket of air, friction will cause it to glow like a poker in a fire. To protect it against this heating, the X-15 has an armour of nickel alloy underlaid with titanium and stainless steel. Even so, the heat may well sap the strength of some of the metals used.

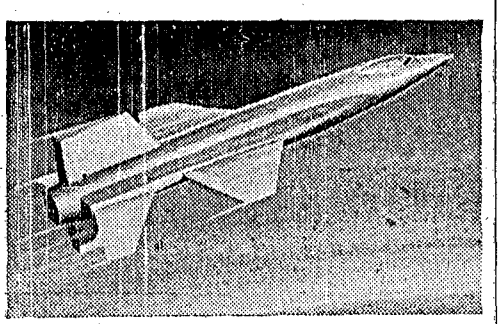
According to the makers, however, the effect will be rather like that of passing a finger through the flame of a candle. That is to say, the X-15 is expected to pass through this critical stage so swiftly that the heat will have little time to do much damage. The cockpit and many other areas, certain fluids and components, will be kept cool the whole time by a constant blast of refrigerated air.

LANDING ON SKIDS

The friction of the Earth's atmosphere will gradually reduce the speed of the X-15 so that the pilot will be able to glide back to Earth and land on skids.

We all know that a meteor is burnt up by the tremendous friction encountered as it enters the atmosphere, but it must be remembered that the X-15 will not be travelling at anything like the speed of a meteor.

Strangely enough, the pilot will be at his safest at the maximum altitude, when he will be flying at his greatest speed. The rare atmosphere at this height will not support combustion, so there can be no explosion.



An impression of the X-15 rocket plane

However, should there be any emergency, the entire cockpit will become the pilot's escape capsule. In the cockpit he can descend to an altitude where he can safely eject himself to finish his drop by parachute. The cockpit will be insulated to protect him from the scorching heat, and also pressurised, of course. Should the cockpit lose its pressure his tailor-made "space-suit" will ensure that he is still able to breathe freely.

The whole adventure will be brief, lasting possibly only 20 minutes, but it will be another important stage in Man's endeavours to conquer space and reach other worlds.

Guardian of the Mountains

Known and respected by all the settlers in south-eastern Australia, Mr. Peter McNaught has been dubbed "The Guardian of the Mountains," for he is charged with preventing erosion—the washing away of soil down the slopes.

Soil conservation is a big problem in Australia, particularly in the mountain area where cattle graze during the summer months. Mr. McNaught has five million acres to look after, much of it unmapped and most of it uninhabited. He plans to cover 20,000 miles a year by Land-Rover, on horseback, and on foot.

Soon after he took up his new appointment in January he built a half-mile steel and wire fence across the top of Mt. Bogong which is over 6500 feet high and Victoria's highest mountain. It stretched from one precipice to another and will keep the cattle out of 10,000 acres of land damaged in recent years by overgrazing.

Mr. McNaught, tall and brown-haired, has a deep love for the mountains and a wide and detailed knowledge of the trees, herbs, and grasses that clothe them, hold together the soil, and prevent erosion.

And he is preserving some of the most valuable cattle country in Australia.

Post Office preparing for Christmas

Christmas seems a long way off, but the General Post Office is already preparing for it. Indeed, the Post Office began making Christmas arrangements on the First of January.

The first Christmas postings to places in the Far East will be in October, and fixing time schedules for boats and trains and planes so far ahead is a tricky business. Then, of course, there are tens of thousands of mailbags to be repaired and cleaned, and perhaps new ones ordered; more and more are needed every year.

Postmasters have to book extra buildings in good time for Christmas, and also make arrangements to secure enough motor vehicles to carry the extra mails.

Brighter Brass for the Band

Members of the Women's Royal Air Force Central Band are here seen cleaning their instruments at the R.A.F. School of Music at Uxbridge, Middlesex. They are now rehearsing for their appearance in the Royal Tournament to be held at Earls Court, London, from June 4 to June 21.

Red Deer on the Farm

When eight-year-old Elizabeth Foster, of Long Preston, Yorkshire, looks out of the windows of her farmhouse home she can see red deer grazing. These magnificent animals are now the only red deer in this part of Yorkshire, though in ancient times there were thousands, carefully preserved in deer parks and forests by feudal lords.

There is a Royal stag—so called because it has 12 points to its antlers—and five hinds, and they spend most of the time grazing in the Back Pasture, which is over 120 acres in extent, and has little valleys in which the deer can shelter from the worst of the weather. The animals occasionally roam on the moor which lies beyond.

Elizabeth calls the stag Pedro, and the youngest hind she has christened Squig. When she is not at school, she likes going to the pasture with her father. He shouts, and the animals come trotting up for a feed of cattle cake. One animal even takes cattle cake from his lips.

The red deer came to Long Preston from a breeder in Sussex. Travelling by rail—Hellifield station is within sight of the farm—they soon settled down, and they are now quite tame, though at first they were unsettled, and one actually wandered on to the railway line and stopped a London express.

The stag occasionally takes a walk into the farmyard and inspects any unusual objects.

The nearest stock of wild deer to Long Preston is in the Lake District, where the population was recently estimated at 500. There are also red deer in the Helmsley area of Yorkshire's North Riding.

Drive-in Cinema

East Africa's first drive-in cinema has just been opened at Nairobi, capital of Kenya. As patrons arrive, they are asked to put out their car lights. Then, sitting in their cars, they watch the film as it is shown on a giant 120-foot wide outdoor screen.

Each car has its own portable loudspeaker so that the occupants can hear the dialogue without it being drowned by the noise of cars coming and going.

Covering 15 acres, the cinema holds 750 cars.

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LEADER OF THE HOUSE AND HIS DUTIES

By the C N Parliamentary Correspondent

Every Thursday afternoon when Parliament is sitting the Leader of the House of Commons is the man every M.P. wants to see and hear. For it is then that he announces Commons "business" for the following week. He can be questioned—and usually is—about this programme of work. He can also be asked why certain items have been included and why others have been left out.

As his title suggests, the Leader of the House is a very important cog in the parliamentary machine. Indeed, up to 1942, the Prime Minister was usually Leader as well. But under the pressure of wartime work Sir Winston Churchill concentrated purely upon his Premiership.

The duties of this high office have hardly diminished since the war, so later Prime Ministers—Earl Attlee, Sir Anthony Eden, and our present Premier, Mr. Macmillan—have left the Leadership of the Commons to trusted colleagues.

Mr. Butler, the present Leader, is also Lord Privy Seal and Home Secretary, and is the most important member of the present Cabinet next to the Prime Minister.

Unlike other Ministers who hold departmental office, the Leader has a particular responsibility to the House as a whole. With the Chief Whip he plans Government business over each session and arranges the weekly programme according to parliamentary precedent, rules, and customs, as well as to the circumstances of the day.

In this, he and his team try to meet the wishes and just claims of the Opposition (as expressed privately or publicly by its Leader and Chief Whip) as well as the Government's supporters in the House.

The Leader must be an expert on parliamentary procedure and history, able and willing to guide the House in the discharge of its rights, duties, and its ceremonial, as well as to protect the "decencies" which underlie the relations between the rival parties.

BEST CLUB IN THE WORLD

The Commons has been described as "the best club in the world," largely because the party leaders recognise the dividing line between controversy and co-operation. Successive leaders of the House, working through Government Chief Whips with the "other side," have often helped the Commons to speak with a united voice on matters of vital national interest.

For the purpose of business arrangements the Chief Whips are described as the "usual channels." For instance, when a back-bencher asks the Leader of the House on a Thursday whether a certain matter can be debated, he will sometimes reply that it can no doubt be discussed "through the usual channels."

Leaders of the House try to take a broad view of things, even to the extent of refusing to support erring Ministers. It is very difficult for anybody to be strictly impartial, but if there were any prizes for impartiality, Leaders of the House would win most such trophies.

C N NATIONAL HANDWRITING TEST

Names of Winners will be announced in next week's issue (dated May 24).

Please order your copy now

Hermit of the Wilds

In Australia it occasionally happens that some eccentric individual, tiring of civilised life, "goes bush" as the saying is down under. He lives alone in the wilds, hunting for his food.

Such a voluntary Robinson Crusoe has now been found in New Zealand. Recently an airman crash-landed on a beach in an uninhabited region. He was astonished when a bronzed and bearded white man came out of the jungle and easily shifted the Auster plane—which weighed 14 cwt.

The hermit said his name was Frank Carey, and that his home was a hut he had built near the beach. He lives on wild pigs, scrub turkeys, birds, fish, and yams, and he spends his time hunting in the jungle.

When the going is too dense underfoot he makes his way through the tree-tops—just like Tarzan.

210 WORDS A MINUTE

Can you talk at 210 words a minute? It is evidently no easy accomplishment as Miss Nancy Burt, New Zealand's champion shorthand-typist, found when she sought such a rapid speaker to enable her to break the Australian shorthand record.

At last she met Mr. Eric Ristorm, a Sydney businessman who dictates at a particularly fast rate. Keeping pace with him, Miss Burt set up a new record of 210 words a minute.

ALL THEIR OWN WORK

To raise money for their organ fund the Wesley Hall Sydenham Choir is putting on a home-made light opera called Patsy's Choice—written, produced, and performed by members. The show is to be given at Anerley Town Hall on Saturday evening, May 31, at 7.30.

OUR HOMELAND

Stonyhurst College, the famous Roman Catholic school near Clitheroe in Lancashire

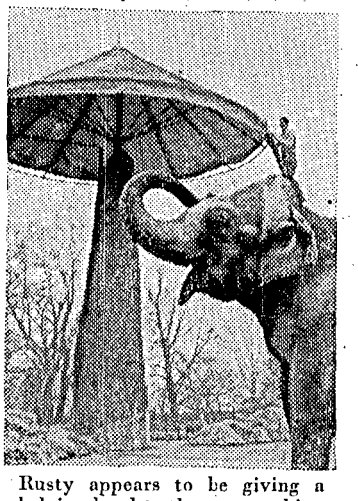
News from Everywhere

NAMESAKE

By a coincidence, the pen-friend obtained by Vivienne Lee of Accrington through the English-Speaking Union is Vivian Lee of Cloquet, Minnesota.

Football held up a little work on the London-Birmingham Motorway until recently. A corner of a pitch at Luton overlapped the site of excavations, but the players were allowed to carry on until the end of the season.

Rusty's sunshade



Rusty appears to be giving a helping head to the man working in the elephant paddock at the London Zoo. But, in fact, the man is standing on a ladder while he erects a giant sunshade under which the elephants can shelter on hot days. Rusty seems amused at the mere idea!

Students at a Nature study camp in New Zealand caught an extremely rare white kiwi, which they photographed and then released.

Eighty-four-year-old Mr. Frederick Wilson, oldest playing member of the Dereham Golf Club, Norfolk, recently holed out in one.

The Soviet ship Baltika, which is to maintain a regular service between Leningrad and London, has five classes: de luxe, first, second, third, and tourist.

The skeleton of a prehistoric man, probably dating back to 1800 B.C., has been found by workmen at Pitton, near Salisbury, Wiltshire.

More than eight million people in Britain now have television licences.

A crane with a jib 125 feet long—the world's largest diesel-electric locomotive crane—was on show recently at Earls Court. It is going to India.

GREEN MONKEYS

A keeper making his rounds at Denver Zoo, U.S.A., was amazed to see a cage full of green monkeys. One of them had managed to get hold of a bucket of paint.

During her recent world tour Chief Guide Lady Baden-Powell travelled nearly 52,000 miles. She visited 15 countries, attended 226 meetings and rallies, and gave 61 radio talks.

The 1000-kilometre closed circuit record has been broken by a French fighter, the Breguet Taon, at a speed of 649 m.p.h. The plane is powered by a Bristol Orpheus turbo-jet engine.

GOONERY DOWN UNDER

Spike Milligan of the Goon Show was "kidnapped" by students on his arrival in Australia, but was released for a ransom of a few old bones. Among the scripts he has already written for his Australian radio show is one concerning a plot to tow the Great Barrier Reef to New South Wales.

British radio exports for the first quarter of this year were valued at £1,500,000, nearly £850,000 more than for the corresponding period of last year.

THEY SAY . . .

To the boy or girl, the first job is the beginning of a life's career; a foolish or sensible choice can mar or make a future.

Sir John Wolfenden

I don't believe you can make England Christian by saying "Thou shalt not" all the time.

The Bishop of Coventry

The best place to train your voice is in the bathroom. It echoes and sounds so good.

Tito Gobbi, the Italian baritone

Out and About

The largest family of creatures in the world is that of the Beetles, or Coleoptera (meaning sheath-wings), of which there are about 200,000 different species.

Among the 3500 of these found in Britain none is easier to see in the next week or two than the big, blundering "Maybug," or cockchafer. It is mainly brown, and the two stiff wing cases opened in flight help to give it that clumsy appearance.

Several cockchafers were charging about above the lane when I saw a rook dive at one. In the tops of a row of elms at one end of the cornfield one could hear the additional chatter of young rooks as well as a familiar cawing. Some farmers would be anxious to shoot them, fearing the damage they might do later, though it is doubtful if rooks do as much damage as they prevent by keeping down pests.

For example, the eggs of that cockchafer, while in the ground, turn into hungry fat white larvae which, by eating the roots, can kill shrubs and young trees. The rooks will dig them out and feed them to their young.

Other, and even worse, pests are the straight, thick grubs called leather-jackets which come from eggs laid by the female "daddy-longlegs" in the ground. They devour the roots of grass and field plants; but rooks join starlings in digging them out and eating *them*, too.

C. D. D.

Woodcarver's glory

Open again until the end of September—and larger than ever—is the fascinating Pinto Collection of wooden household objects used by our ancestors. It is indeed a revelation of the different uses of wood in the days before plastics were developed.

Formed by Mr. and Mrs. Pinto at their Middlesex home, Oxhey Woods House near Northwood, the Collection is attractively set out in dummy shop windows and in specially designed showcases. The range of the objects is amazing. There are wooden spoons, devices for making pills by hand, gingerbread moulds, exquisitely carved cups and clock stands, even a pair of tongs used in olden days for removing noisy dogs from church!

Consisting of hundreds of exhibits, the display has proved immensely popular since it was opened in 1955. Visitors from many countries have paid tribute to a delightful afternoon spent there, and schoolboys and girls—often coming in classes—have found it enthralling.

More than 200 items added since last summer include a wooden fire engine, a Georgian woodworker's tool chest containing 345 tools, an inlaid and dated alphabet stick, a carved spectacles case of 1726, a mould for making 24 candles at once, and many other things that are not only beautiful in themselves, but throw a light on social history.

One of the wooden unicorns which serve as guide-posts.

The Collection is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Bank Holidays between 2 p.m. and 6.45 p.m. Special openings at other times can be arranged for parties of 30 or over.

Admission is 2s. 6d. for adults and one shilling for people under 14.

TOTEM POLE FOR THE QUEEN

A Red Indian Chief, Mungo Martin, is to fly to Britain in July to present the Queen with a hundred-foot totem pole which he has carved for British Columbia's centenary celebrations. It will be set up in Windsor Great Park.

THE DODGER IN DANGER

For 105 years a little train has been puffing its way between Malton and Driffield and on its way serving seven village stations among the Yorkshire Wolds. Known affectionately as The Dodger, it carried its last passengers in June 1954, but has continued as a freight train.

On occasions when village homes have been snowbound and cut off from supplies, The Dodger has got through. It carried food to them in this way only last February, and so it has a special place in local hearts.

But now the British Transport Commission has suggested that this 17-mile line should be closed. It has been running at a loss and the Commission say £13,700 a year would be saved by closing the line. So it would seem that The Dodger is nearly at the end of its long run.

Mill memorial for a poet

Kingsland Mill at Shipley, Sussex, where Hilaire Belloc lived during his later years, has been undergoing complete restoration during the past 18 months in readiness for its official opening as a memorial to the famous poet and essayist.

The building will be open to visitors at a charge of one shilling each as a contribution to the funds needed for the upkeep of the mill.

Scooter of the air

This strange-looking aircraft is a form of aerial scooter and has a cruising speed of 30 miles an hour. It is seen during a demonstration flight near Paris.

RAISING MUSHROOMS UNDER FLOODLIGHTS

A new floodlighting system has been installed on a 100-acre mushroom farm at Thakeham, near Steyning, Sussex.

This enables a day and night shift to work continuously on compost preparation in a scheme to raise production eventually from five million pounds of mushrooms a year to nine million pounds.

VOLE VERSUS TREE

It seems that the bank vole, or red-backed field mouse, a pretty little animal with glossy fur, is attacking young trees. A Hampshire naturalist, Mr. Oliver Hook of Lyndhurst, has discovered that bank voles can climb trees to a height of eight feet to eat the bark, whereas ordinary short-tailed voles are content to chew it at ground level.

Mr. Hook made his observations in the New Forest partly by photography. He also spotted other tree-damaging culprits including wood mice, rabbits, hares, deer, and squirrels.

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CARRY A CAMERA & TAKE FACES & PLACES

ERNEST THOMSON WRITES ABOUT RADIO AND TELEVISION PERSONALITIES AND PROGRAMMES

HECTIC WEEK FOR MATTY

FEELING energetic? Then how would you like to fly out from London to Naples, race by fast motor-boat across the Bay, be hauled on board an aircraft carrier, and then ride in a cycle race on the flight deck? That was the programme scheduled during the past week, *not* for an athletic schoolboy or a young four-minute miler, but for 89-year-old actor A. E. Matthews.

"Matty," as you probably know, has been in the news lately for sitting in his dressing-gown outside his house in protest at the erection of a concrete lamp-post. This newest exploit puts him in the news again.

His journey to Naples, and on to Malta, was for film sequences in connection with B B C Television's new serial, beginning in July, about life with Navy helicopter pilots.

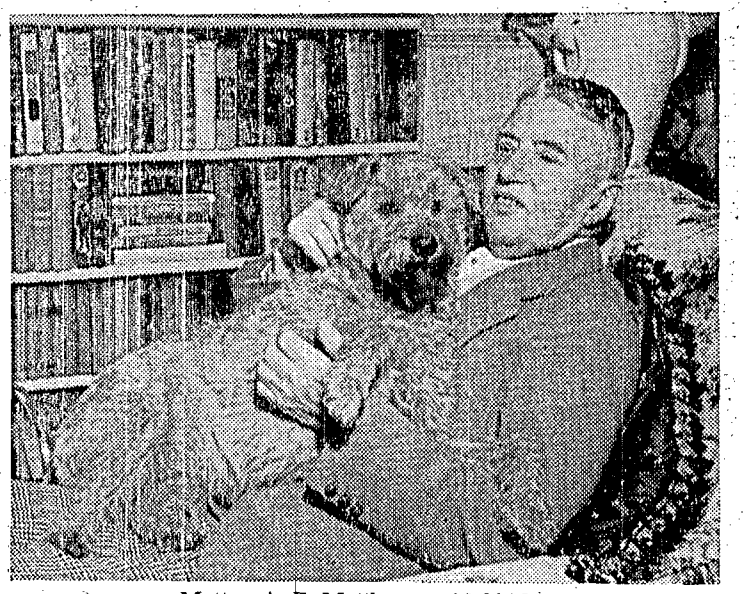
When I talked to Mr. Matthews about his trip, he said: "It's going to be very funny. I've got to dress up as an Admiral and be piped on board. Then I jump on a cycle and not only ride a race on the flight deck, but win it!"

I asked whether he had ever tried cycling on a ship before.

"No, but, my dear boy, it'll be perfectly easy," he replied with a laugh. "I learnt to ride on a penny-farthing machine. Now that *was* tricky."

Producer John Warrington is still looking for a title for the serial. I hear that "Matty" will be seen in the character of Admiral Sir Godfrey Wiggin-Fanshawe, with William Mervyn as Captain of the aircraft carrier.

The story has been written by Trevor Peacock and Gavin Blakeney, and will run for 13 instalments.



Matty—A. E. Matthews—with his dog

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Children's Caravan on the road again

THIS Wednesday the B B C Children's Caravan takes the road for the summer season on T V, with Jeremy Geidt, as usual, to ring up the curtain as Caravan Showman.

The jumping-off ground for this fortnightly series is Tiger Bay, Cardiff, and some of the local children will be taking part in the show. Clive Dunn, regular member of the team, will be back, and the bill includes Phil Darban and Wendy in a rope-spinning act; the Two Gees doing wonders on the drums; Jean and Jackie Dawson with mouth-organs and guitars; those trampoline dancers Beryl and Bobo; and Pat Hatton and Peggy mixing juggling with magic.

David Sheppard's viewpoint

THE Rev. David Sheppard, the former Sussex and England cricketer, is in B B C Television's Sportsview this Wednesday to give his own viewpoint in First Person. This new feature has already included a number of outstanding sporting personalities.

Soccer enthusiasts can also see a film of Sunday's match in Belgrade between England and Yugoslavia. The England soccer team goes on to Moscow for its match with Russia next Sunday, and a film of the game will be televised by the B B C on the following Wednesday.

The Rev. David Sheppard

Reflections from Scarborough

THREE saucer-shaped objects known as parabolic reflectors will temporarily alter the Yorkshire skyline next week when the B B C take their first "live" T V programme from Scarborough on May 23. The reflectors, providing the radio link from the Spa Theatre to Telephone House, Manchester, will be set up at Oliver's Mount, Scarborough; on a hill in the village of Brandsby; and at Tinshill, near Leeds.

Jeremy Hawk, whom we know so well in Granada's Junior Criss Cross Quiz, will be compering a variety show there.

History on the Thames

THE famous horseback speech by Queen Elizabeth I reviewing her troops at Tilbury at the time of the Spanish Armada, will be heard in Sweet Thames, Run Softly, a B B C Children's Hour programme next Saturday, written by Howard Jones.

Tune in, and you can imagine yourself on a journey in time from Teddington to Tilbury. Dramatised scenes will spotlight places of historic interest. As well as the Tilbury sequence, listeners will hear about the early days of the Port of London and meet Henry VIII and Oliver Cromwell.

LOCH NESS, LAIR OF THE MONSTER

IF the Loch Ness monster isn't spotted by T V this Thursday, it looks as if we can regard him as a fraud. Seven B B C television cameras, including one in a watertight case below the surface, will be used by a team of frogmen in the biggest underwater inquiry yet tried on T V.

Leading the diving team will be Mark Terrell, ex-Lieutenant-Commander, R.N., who has specialised in frogmen tests for several years. Besides the below-water camera, there will be three on boats, including the "peepie-creepie" model, and three more lining the shores of this mystery loch. Sharp-eyed Raymond Baxter will be on the look-out, too, as boat commentator, and Jamieson Clark will be scanning the water's surface from on shore.

This is a scientific exploration, and the experts are being careful not to mention the word "Monster." But you and I know about the strange, wiggly shapes that so many people report having spotted there in the last 30 years.

At one point the Loch is 745 feet deep.

Mystery on the tennis court

SHADY happenings on the tennis court form the theme of Into the Net, the new weekly serial for young viewers which started in Associated-Rediffusion this week. It has been timed so that the final episode comes on June 17, just before the opening of the Wimbledon Championships.

Into the Net tells how a dishonest journalist (played by Stephen Scott) tries to spoil the chances of a famous amateur player (Charles Stapley). Background sequences have been filmed at the well-known Queen's Club.

Ian Keill

Susan Farmer

Susan Farmer (15) has the part of the tennis player's daughter who, with her friend the ball boy (Ian Keill), tries to outwit the journalist. Susan has been studying drama for some time, and has already appeared in a filmed T V series for America. Recently she understudied and played for Julia Lockwood as Wendy in Peter Pan.

Ian, who graduated from R.A.D.A. last year, was seen in I T V the other day as the solemn young student in Reunion in Vienna. Ian has already appeared on the stage in London's West End.

The Denises are back

IT will be like old times seeing Armand and Michaela Denis back as regular weekly visitors in B B C Television, starting at 8.15 p.m. this Wednesday. This time, though, we must accept them on film only, as they are too busy in Kenya to be present in the studio.

It is all new film, however, taken by Australian naturalist Desmond Bartlett, who has been with the Denises for the past few months, travelling thousands of miles in Africa. They went in bush planes and trans-continental airliners, by lorry and jeep, and hundreds of miles on foot.

Creatures we shall meet range from big game in Kenya to spiders and crabs from the Indian Ocean coast, from the platana frog in South Africa to flying foxes in the Great Tropical Forest. The Denises will also introduce us to native tribes they lived with, and show their fascinating customs.

Desmond Bartlett's special interest is the study of insects, and one of the programmes will show some of the unusual specimens he filmed on the trip.

Youth asks the Rabbi

WE WANT AN ANSWER is the new title of Granada's Youth Wants To Know on the whole I T V network at 6.40 p.m. on Wednesdays. This week the guest facing the volley of questions is Rabbi Kopul Rosen, headmaster of Carmel College, Bucks, the only Jewish public school in the country. He will be quizzed by a team of schoolboys and girls about the tenth anniversary of the State of Israel.

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THE NATIONAL PARKS OF BRITAIN

5. Pembrokeshire coast

Spectacular coastal scenery is the outstanding feature of the Pembrokeshire National Park in South Wales. Smallest of the ten parks (225 square miles), it was established in December 1951 and is unusual in consisting of four separate parts. Three of them cover most of the county's coastline; the fourth is entirely inland.

THE northern part of Pembrokeshire is truly Welsh in character and speech, and, in the little cathedral town of St. David's, is graced by the home and shrine of the patron saint of Wales. The south of the county, however, was colonised by the Norse, Normans, and Flemings, and has come to be known as Little England; Henry Tudor, who became King Henry VII of England, was born at Pembroke Castle.

The south of the Pembrokeshire National Park, from Amroth west to Milford Haven, can boast impressive red sandstone cliffs and broad sandy beaches. On Caldy Island, near the holiday resort of Tenby, stands a monastery known far and wide for the rare perfumes prepared by the monks.

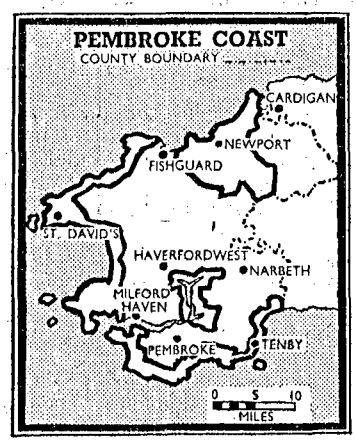
HAUNTS OF SEA-BIRDS

The western part of the park takes in the wide sweep of St. Brides Bay and the islands of Grassholm, Skokholm, and Skomer, which are the haunts of many kinds of sea-birds. Grassholm has the only colony of gannets south of Scotland. Shearwaters, guillemots, razorbills, stormy petrels, and puffins nest in their thousands on Skokholm and Skomer. Atlantic seals can sometimes be seen, too, along the shores of Pembrokeshire. Farther north, between St. David's Head and Strumble Head, is a wonderful stretch of coast with towering cliffs and secluded coves.

The northern sector of the Pembrokeshire National Park extends from Fishguard to the Cardiganshire border and includes the sheer 450-feet-high cliff of Dinas Head. Behind this coastline rise the Prescelly Mountains, from whose bare slopes the bluestones were quarried in prehistoric times for the inner ring of Stonehenge and taken to Salisbury Plain, 200 miles, by some strange means of primitive transport.

The inland part of the park, between the upper reaches of Milford Haven and the county town of Haverfordwest, is a country of numerous creeks and waterways wandering through wooded parklands.

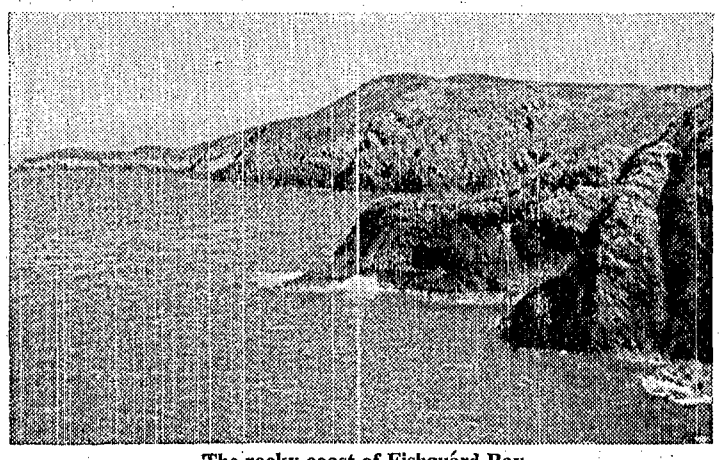
Pembrokeshire is not a wealthy county, and the oil refinery and



dock for deep-sea oil tankers which is shortly to be built at Milford Haven will undoubtedly help local prosperity. But great care will be needed to ensure that the new industrial scene encroaches on the National Park as little as possible.

The Pembrokeshire National Park Committee has other problems to face. On the one hand, there are too many conspicuous caravans near some of the loveliest beaches, while on the other there is a need for more accommodation and car parks for visitors. The park, too, is sadly disfigured in places by the remains of war-time aerodromes and camps. Last summer a party of Cambridge undergraduates gave up part of their holiday to demolish a disused gun site near Milford Haven, a public-spirited action which shows how useful work can be done even when little money is available.

Next week : North York Moors



The rocky coast of Fishguard Bay
(Crown copyright reserved)

Leading a retired dog's life

Simba was once a Metropolitan Police dog but when his handler, Mr. Harry Jennings, retired would not co-operate with anyone else. So Simba, too, was retired, and joined his old master at Street, Somerset, and here he is seen with Mr. Jennings' young daughters.

Canoe trip to Margate

An adventurous trip down the Thames and its estuary to Margate is to begin on May 24, when 45 youngsters aged 16 and 17 will set out from Putney in a fleet of kayak canoes for a week's voyage.

The expedition has been organised by the National Association of Boys' Clubs, and those taking part, who belong to 17 different clubs, will assemble at Putney on May 23 from places as far afield as the Rhondda Valley, Saltash in Cornwall, Birmingham, and Bourneville. Some of the adventurers have built their own featherweight craft.

Accompanied by a safety launch, the canoeists will wear life jackets throughout the trip, and will carry their own camping and cooking equipment. Their first stop will be Erith, between Woolwich and Dartford, where they are to camp out for Saturday night on a sports ground. On Sunday they will paddle to All Hallows, also on the Kent shore, where the Thames is about three miles wide. On Monday they will enter the mouth of the Medway and paddle up to Chatham, where they are to sleep aboard H.M.S. Duncansby Head, a maintenance ship. Here they hope to be shown over several other naval vessels, including a submarine.

On Tuesday will come a test of their skill as kayak men. They have to negotiate the different currents meeting at the entrance of the Swale, the channel which makes Sheppey an island. Paddling up the Swale, they will spend Tuesday night at Harty Ferry. Next day they will edge along the sea coast past Herne Bay to Reculver, and they hope to reach Margate, to be welcomed there by the Mayor, on May 30.

PAVLOVA PLAQUE

Pavlova, the Russian ballerina, is commemorated by a plaque recently unveiled by the Mayor of Hendon, on the wall of Ivy House, Golders Green. The house was bought by Pavlova in 1912 and was her home for 18 years. It is now part of Manor House Hospital.

Working holidays abroad

Young people from many parts of Europe will be in our midst this summer, working on farms and in orchards and hopfields. They are coming under the goodwill scheme run by Concordia youth service organisation. Among the 700 so far enrolled are boys and girls from Holland, France, Spain, Turkey, Italy, Yugoslavia, and Portugal. They pay £3 a week for their food and lodging out of their earnings.

One party has already been in camp in Essex, doing general farm work. At the end of this month another party is going to Titchfield, Hampshire, to pick strawberries and peas. In most camps arrangements are made for social activities and sight-seeing trips.

British volunteers (who must be 16 or over) are going to Europe under the same scheme, and among their jobs will be reconstruction work on refugee camps and old people's homes. The whole scheme provides excellent opportunities for young people of different countries to get together.

BOY GYMNASTS IN SWEDEN

A party of boy gymnasts of Matthew Arnold School, Staines, Middlesex, returned not long ago from a successful tour in Sweden. There they took part in the Ling Festival of Gymnastics.

Their display at Stockholm was given a great ovation by a critical audience of over 2000 people, and afterwards each of the 12 boys was given a medallion commemorating the Festival. For a week they and their two masters were the guests of Swedish families.

They were good ambassadors for their country.

KEEPING THE HEDGES TRIM

HEDGING is one of the traditional tasks on the farm. It is a complicated craft that takes years to learn. A hedger has to become expert with the awkward hooks used for cutting, and he also has to learn the ways of the hedgerow trees.

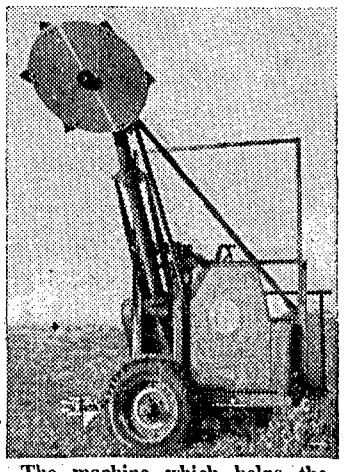
He has to know how to "lay" a hedge properly so that it grows thick at the bottom and is therefore proof against cattle and lambs. This is done by partially severing the upright growths so that they can be bent over. If the job is done properly they continue to grow vigorously in the new position.

This is a slow job, and even skilled men can only do a few yards of hedge in a day. Now that fewer men are available, many of the hedges of England might have gone untrimmed had not agricultural engineers designed yet another machine to help the farmer cope with his work.

The effective part of the machine is the star-like disc at the top. This is spun at high speed by a shaft taking power from a coupling to the tractor which tows the machine. The six projections on this disc are knife blades, and they are driven at such high speed that they easily cut through the thickest of hedges.

The cutting head, mounted on an arm, is driven by a bevel gear and is adjustable so that it can cut at any angle from vertical to horizontal. The operator, standing on the platform behind the screen, handles controls which raise or lower the arm, otherwise the line of the cut hedge would follow every bump and hollow in the field. He can also extend and retract the arm if needed.

The machine usually has to make at least three trips along the hedge to trim it. The first, with the head vertical, to cut the sides of the hedge. Then, with the head horizontal, the top is trimmed. Finally, with the head at an angle of 45 degrees, the edges are rounded off. As the machine goes along at a speed faster than walking pace, even three trips is many times faster than the old hand method.



The machine which helps the farmer to trim his hedges

At first farmers said that, as the machine only trimmed the hedge and did not "lay" it in the old way, the growth would be thin at the bottom. But after these machines had been used for several years the hedges were found to be better than ever and so thick that there was no way through—even for a pheasant.

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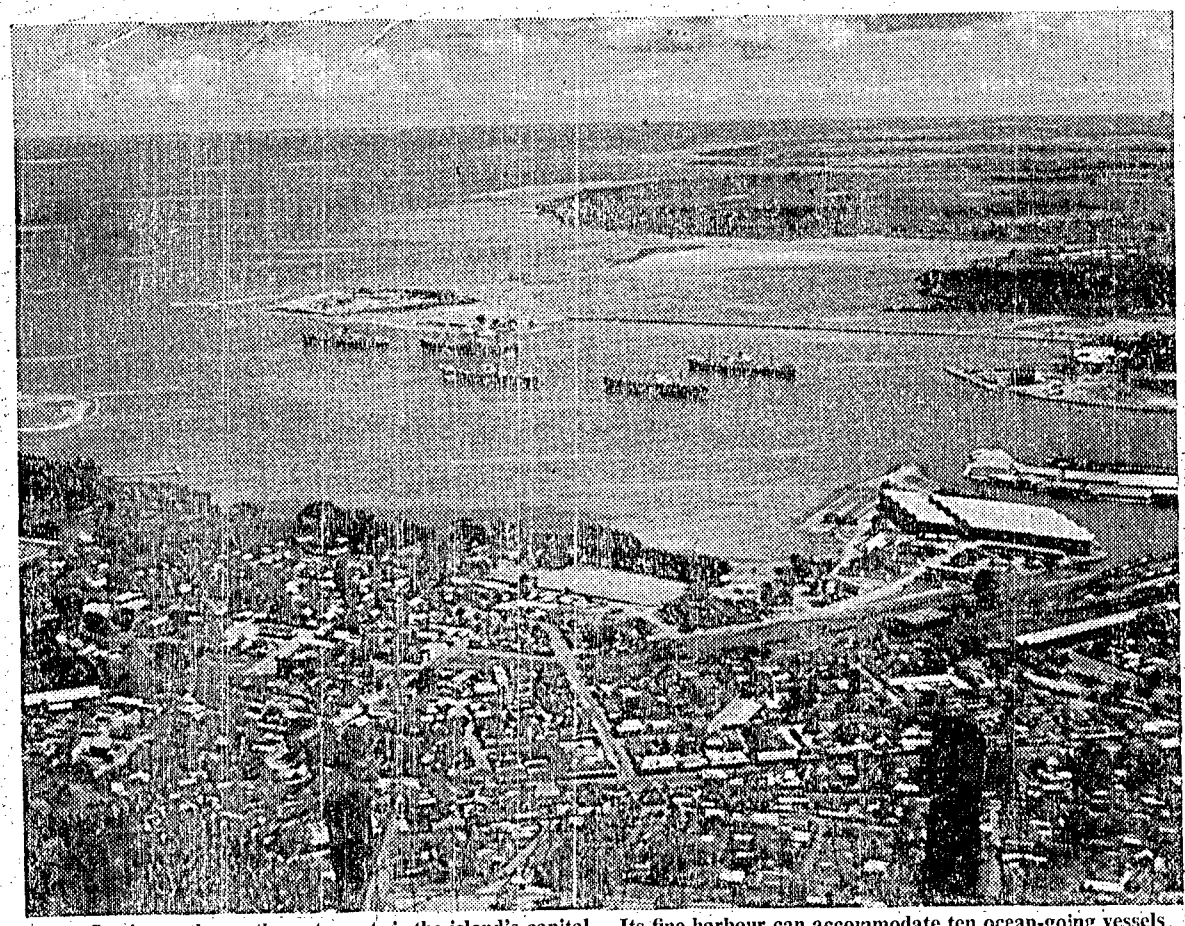
COMMONWEALTH PANORAMA—MAURITIUS

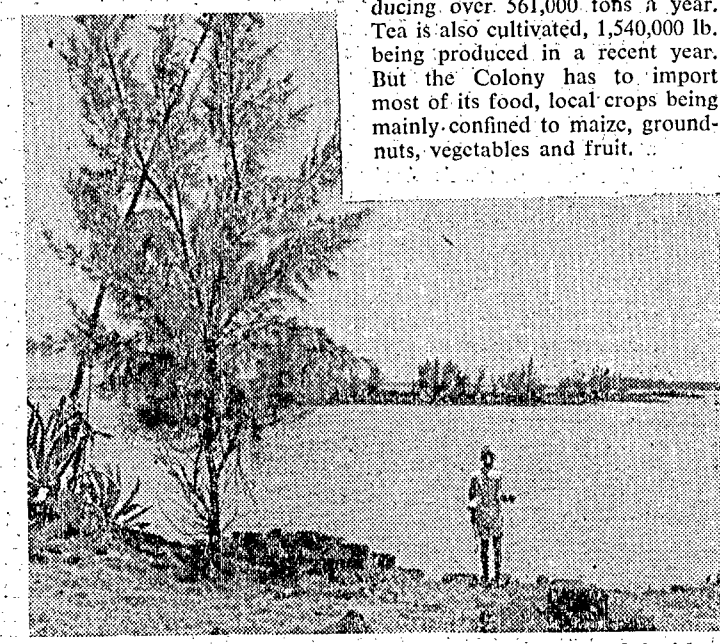


Port Louis, on the north-west coast, is the island's capital. Its fine harbour can accommodate ten ocean-going vessels

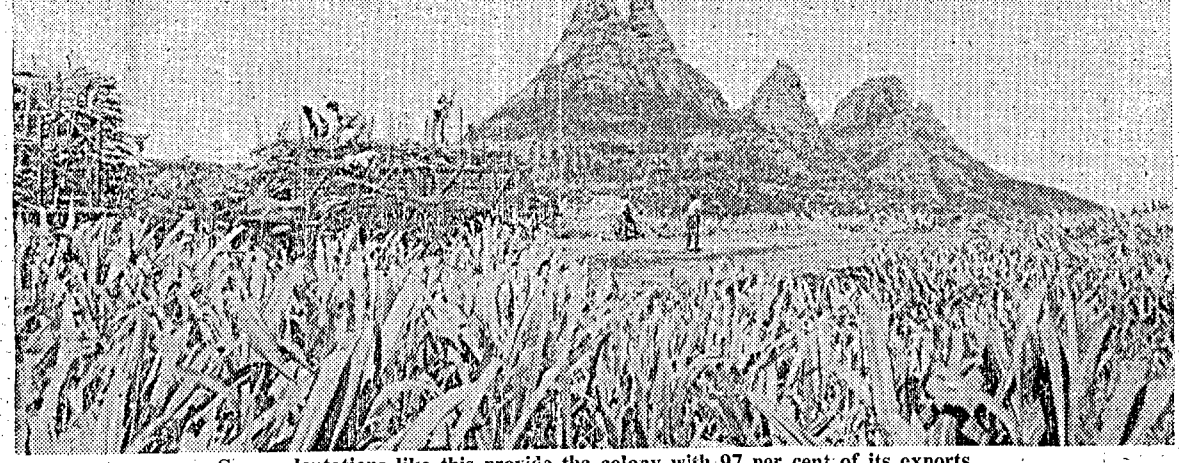
A TROPICAL island in the Indian Ocean, Mauritius has an area of 720 square miles—the size of Surrey. The population is about 580,000, roughly half being of Indian descent, and the rest mainly of European, African, and Chinese descent. The capital, Port Louis, has a population of about 80,000.

THE first Europeans to discover the island were the Portuguese, early in the 16th century. They named it Cerné, after one of their ships. It was then uninhabited. The Portuguese did not settle there long, and in 1598 the Dutch arrived and named the island Mauritius in honour of their ruler, Prince Maurice of Nassau. The Dutch established a colony there in 1683, but abandoned the island in 1710. Five years later the French took over and gave it the name of Ile de France, and developed a flourishing community. The British captured the island in 1810, during the Napoleonic wars, and re-named it Mauritius when it was ceded to them in 1814. Now the island has a wide measure of self-government.

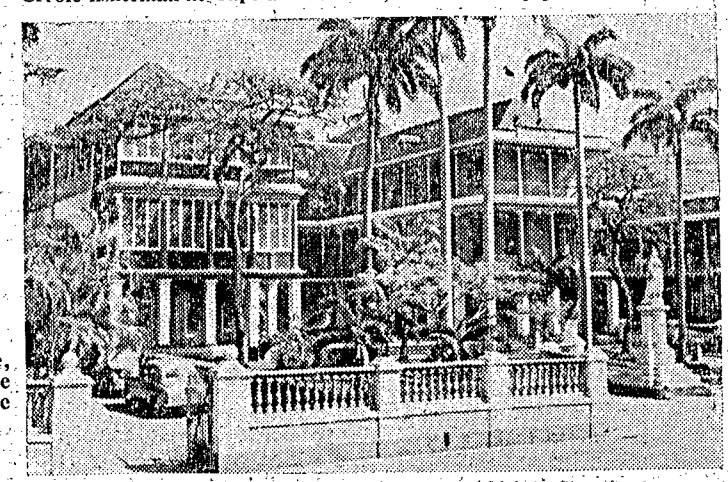
THE mainstay of Mauritius is sugar, which provides about 97 per cent of the Colony's exports. Over 69 per cent of the workpeople are employed in the industry, growing sugar cane on some 188,600 acres, and producing over 561,000 tons a year. Tea is also cultivated, 1,540,000 lb. being produced in a recent year. But the Colony has to import most of its food, local crops being mainly confined to maize, groundnuts, vegetables and fruit.



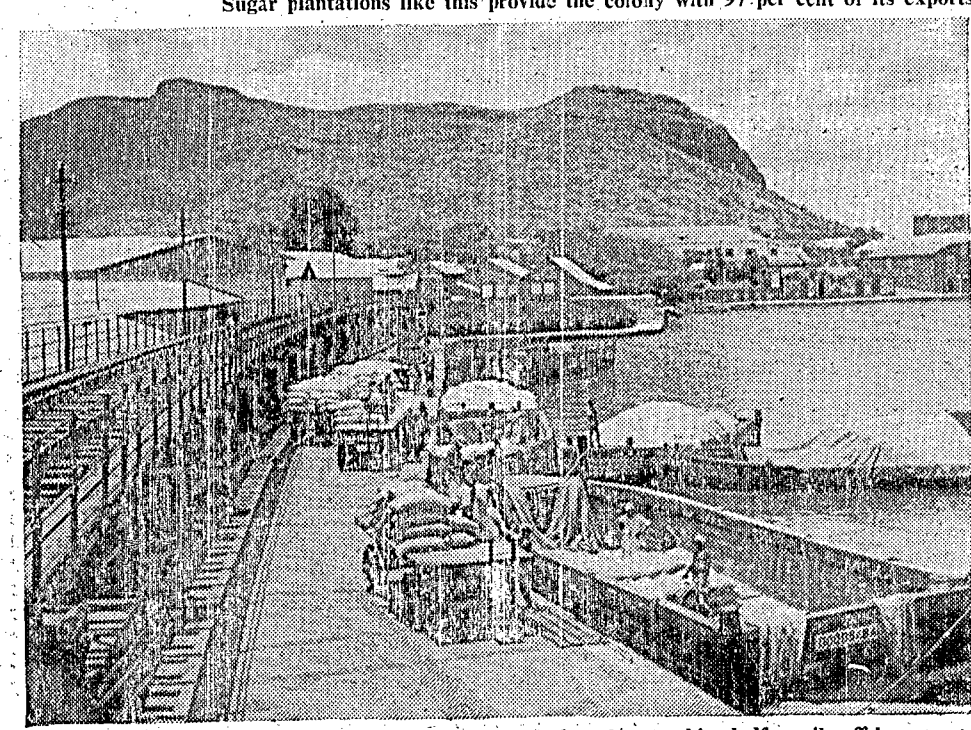
Creole fisherman at Cape Malheureux, most northerly point of the island



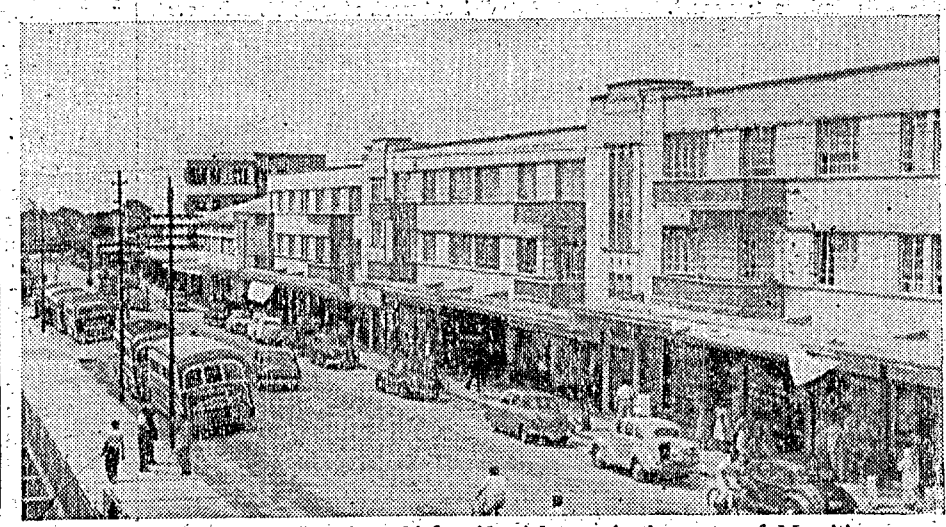
Sugar plantations like this provide the colony with 97 per cent of its exports



Government House, Port Louis, where the Legislative Council meets



Lighters at Port Louis being loaded with sugar to be taken to ships half a mile offshore



The main street of Curepipe, chief residential town in the centre of Mauritius

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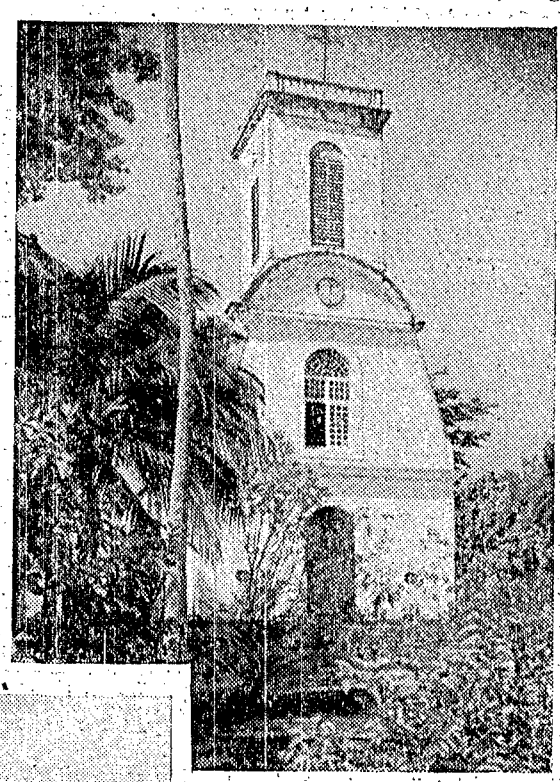
Statue of the 18th-century French Governor, Mahé de Labourdonnais, on the waterfront at Port Louis

There are about 800 acres under tobacco, all grown for home use

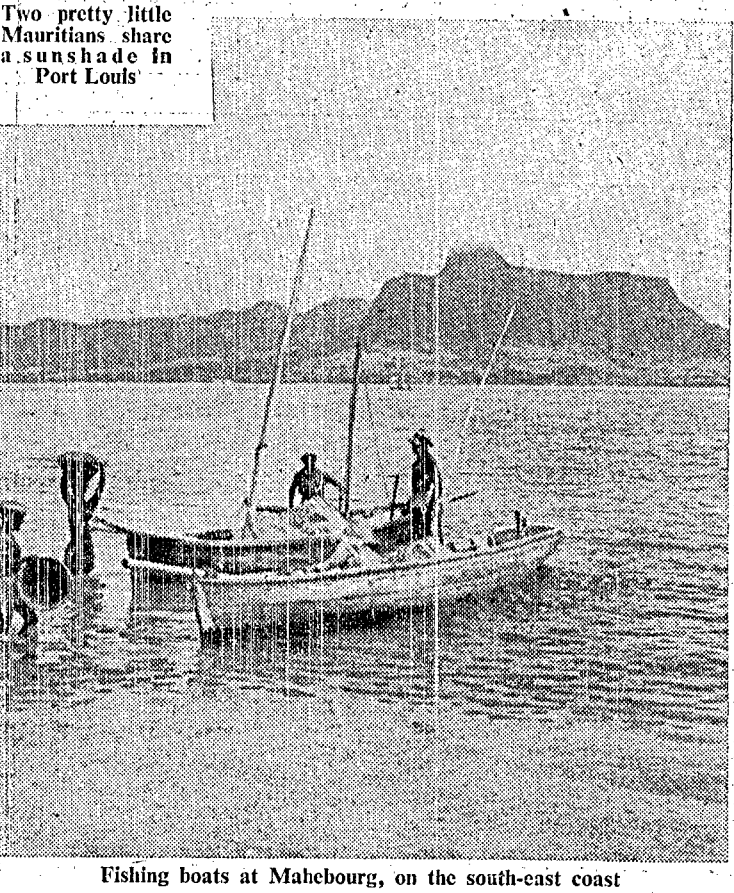
One of many Mauritians of Indian descent

Two pretty little Mauritians share a sunshade in Port Louis

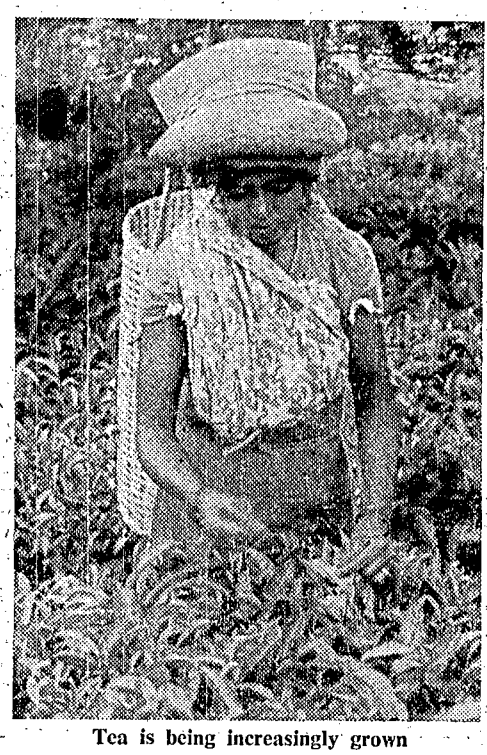


French church at Pamplemousses

A Buddhist temple on the slopes of one of the hills of Port Louis

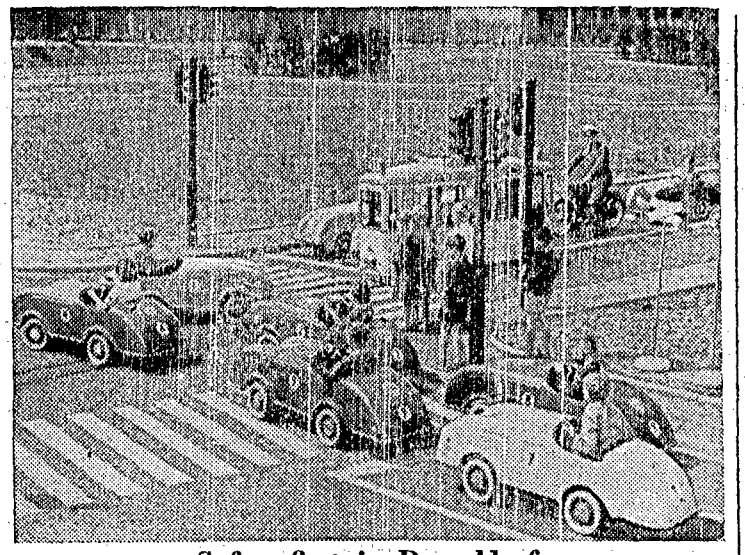


Fishing boats at Mahebourg, on the south-east coast



Tea is being increasingly grown

Creole girls whose ancestors came to Mauritius from Africa



Safety-first in Dusseldorf

This children's traffic playground, complete with road vehicles, traffic signals, pedestrian crossings, and various road signs, was recently opened in Dusseldorf, West Germany. Made at a cost of £10,000, it is designed to give children a keener traffic sense.

Strange creature with a sucker

In spring, and particularly in May, the eel-like sea-lamprey ascends our western rivers, including the Severn and the Dee, coming in from the North Atlantic in order to lay its eggs among the pebbles of the upper reaches.

Instead of a mouth lampreys have a sucker by which they lift the stones to make a trough-like nest for their eggs. At sea they use this sucker to hang on to the sides of fish and boats, and they feed by sucking the life-juices from the fish. Sometimes the fishermen around our coasts bring in basking sharks and salmon with lampreys hanging on like great leeches.

But they are not so destructive in our rivers as they are proving to be in the Great Lakes of North America. There, despite numerous efforts to trap and destroy it, the sea lamprey is increasing annually. Special studies have shown that female lampreys cause more damage than males, as they grow larger and feed oftener.

Canadian and American fishery authorities are very alarmed about the lamprey's behaviour in their waters, for the trout of the Great Lakes of North America are being exterminated by them. The same kind of sea-lamprey which migrates from the North Atlantic up our English and Welsh rivers, also visits the rivers of Norway, Iceland, and North America.

Nearly 670 tons of trout used to be caught every year by the commercial fishermen of the Great Lakes until, a few years ago, the lakes were invaded by the parasitic sea lamprey.

Since then the commercial production of the trout in Lakes Huron and Michigan has collapsed. Between 1938 and 1947 the catch fell to less than a tenth, and by 1955 the original 670 tons had fallen to 32¼ tons.

LOOKING AT THE SKY

THE ANCIENT CENTAUR

The southern sky to the south of the brilliant Jupiter and the star Spica Virginis, which now appears below the planet, presents a dull region in which no bright stars other than Theta-in-Centaurus can be seen from our latitudes. This second-magnitude star appears not far above the horizon in Southern Britain at about 10 p.m. It may also be possible to glimpse one or two others, including the not-so-bright Iota, some way to the right or west of Theta and due south of Spica Virginis.

GRANDEST IN THE HEAVENS

These stars are all that can be seen from this country of the great constellation of Centaurus the Centaur. At one time, when it included the stars of what is now the Southern Cross, this was the grandest in the heavens.

The Centaur's chief interest now is that it contains the star nearest to Earth apart from our Sun. This is Alpha Centauri, the third brightest in the whole sky. It is just now almost due south of Theta and about as far below this star as Theta is below Spica.

Alpha Centauri is also of interest because it is composed of two suns, which may be seen through even a small astronomical telescope. (But the observer would have to go as far south as the West Indies to do so.)

TWO CONSTELLATIONS IN ONE

The brightest stars of Centaurus are shown in the accompanying star-map, together with those of the Southern Cross which in ancient times were part of the Centaur. The constellation then would have covered much more sky than either Orion or Ursa Major, and been far grander; for the Centaur of those days was adorned with five stars of first magnitude, four of second magnitude, and seven of third magnitude, while most of the vast area would have been covered with the radiance of the "Milky Way."

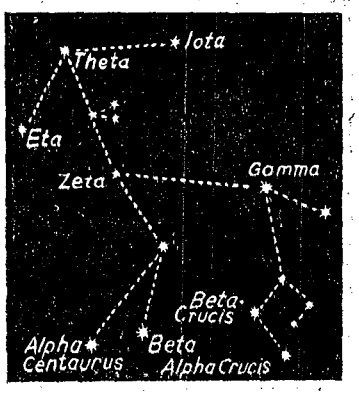
To the astronomers of Chaldea and Ancient Egypt this grand array of brilliant stars represented a fearsome mythological creature, possessing the body and legs of a horse and the arms and head of a man. The Centaur was thus to the ancients their ideal of a warrior, and later on the Ancient Greeks immortalised the Centaur as Chiron, the Greek trainer of heroes.

Nowadays, very little of Centaurus is visible even from Greece or from what was then Chaldea, but four to six thousand years ago, when the North Pole of the heavens was not far from the tail of Ursa Major, instead of near the present Pole Star, the Centaur rose high above the southern horizon and could be seen from as far north as Scotland. Now, little more than Theta can be seen from Britain.

This visible part of the Centaur represents only the head, with Alpha and Beta representing the fore-feet. What is now the Southern Cross was then the hind-legs of the Centaur. So when this constellation reappears a few thousand years hence, it will appear without the stars representing its hind-legs.

Theta is a sun radiating about 30 times more light than our Sun, but it is over three million times farther away. Iota is somewhat farther and radiates about 25 times more light than our Sun.

In the Southern Cross are two of the brightest stars, Alpha and Beta Crucis. Alpha Crucis is composed of four immense suns, the largest pair radiating about 900 times more light than our Sun, and the smaller pair about 560 times more. Both pairs revolve in vast orbits round a centre of gravity between them.



Beta Crucis is a giant radiating about 1500 times more light than our Sun, but from a distance of about 272 light-years.

G. F. M.

In the composing room

As long as there are printed books, magazines, and newspapers there will be compositors, the men who "set" the type—by hand or by machine—and arrange it into pages. Not surprisingly, they form the biggest group of craftsmen in the printing industry.

As we are reminded in *Composing Room Crafts*, published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office at 1s. 3d., the compositor has a responsible job; he is the man who puts the writer's words into print.

The compositor's work calls for accuracy allied to speed; good English, good eyesight, knowledge of the many kinds of types, and a sense of design—and strong feet, for unless he is a machine operator most of his work is done standing up.

Training is by apprenticeship, beginning at 15 or 16 and lasting up to six years. During that time he will usually attend part-time day or evening classes at an art or technical college, where he can also study for the exams which will later qualify him for senior positions.

MICAH CLARKE—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's story of the Monmouth Rising (8)

Micah returned safely to Taunton—to everyone's surprise and delight. They had heard he had been condemned to death by Beaufort. Monmouth rejoiced in the news that Beaufort was secretly on his side, and he promoted Micah to be his Master-scout. Some days later the rebels left Taunton, and when they halted near Bristol, Micah and Reuben rode out of camp as scouts to look for any signs of the enemy.

Concealed by trees, they saw a troop of Horse Guards surprise and put to flight a small party of Monmouth's cavalry. Then the Guards rode away, but their officer lingered, watching the rebel camp. Micah saw that he and Reuben could cut him off by going through a wood. When they confronted him, he at once charged at them, sword in one hand, pistol in the other, and the reins between his teeth.

The officer's bullet grazed Reuben's cheek, but his sword cut fell short of Micah, who pulled him off his horse and rode away with him across his own saddlebow, followed by Reuben. The prisoner turned out to be Major Ogilvy, whom Micah had met at Salisbury when he was on his way to join Monmouth. In the rebel camp Micah and Reuben treated the major well, kindness that was later to stand Micah in good stead.

Monmouth's council decided against attacking Bristol, and the rebel army marched to Wells. A great deal of preaching always went on among the rebels, with frequent heated arguments. Micah feared this would cause disunity, but his friend Decimus Saxon reminded him that Cromwell's army had been divided into Presbyterians, Independents, Ranters, Anabaptists, Fifth Monarchy men, and a score of other sects.

Can Monmouth's peasants emulate Cromwell's Ironsides in the coming battle? See next week's instalment

SECRET OF THE GORGE

By Malcolm Saville

David Morton and Tom Ingles, two of the Lone Piners, have been searching the gorge for a possible hiding place for the missing Whiteflower Diamond Necklace. Returning to their camp, they find a lout and a girl wrecking their equipment. There is a fight between David and the youth, which David wins. Just before the fight starts Peter and Jenny return to the camp. Peter has injured her knee when the two had been escaping from a ruined cottage in which they had been locked by the youth and his girl friend. Then the Lone Piners realise that Nicholas and the twins are still out exploring. Tom and Jenny set off to find them. Near the Manor they hear the Lone Piners' warning whistle.

17. Breaking camp

"WHERE are they, Tom?" Jenny asked in a breathless voice as she and Tom raced in the gloom towards Bringewood Manor.

They ran down the hill, and it was Jenny who noticed something waving above the battlements of the ugly tower. Dickie told them later that he was likely to die of exposure because he had used his shirt as a signal of distress. It didn't take as long to rescue them as it took the prisoners on the tower to explain to their rescuers how to find the room with the door to the stairs. Dickie and Nicholas screamed themselves hoarse before they were able to make themselves understood, and Tom was highly amused when he found the key still in the lock. As soon as the door swung back, the twins, Nicholas, and Macbeth rushed into the room, the twins each trying to speak at once.

When they paused for breath Nicholas got his chance to tell Tom and Jenny about the two men who had gone off with tools and rope to the well.

"To the well, eh? That's news. Wonder what they know?" Tom said. "We'll tell David about this when we get back to camp. Come on, you lot."

They sat for a long time round the camp fire after supper and talked about the men and what they were doing round the well. They all agreed that they would have to try to find out but because they were all so tired, and rather depressed, it was not long before they went to bed.

"P'raps we shall find the treasure tomorrow?" Jenny suggested. "Let's believe that's going to happen."

There was no alarm during the night. Peter did not wake until Jenny leaned over her and said "Nearly eight, Peter. Nobody seems to be up and aren't we going to spy on that well? It's colder, too. The weather doesn't look too good."

Doctor for Peter

Peter's injured knee was not so well, so after breakfast they decided she ought to see a doctor.

"You ought to have penicillin or something for that," David said. "Where's Nicky? He's sure to know a doctor in Bringewood. Will you take Peter in to the village, Nicky?"

"Of course I'll go, David. Dr. Harvey is nice and I'll explain that Peter is a friend. Shall we walk or bike?"

"Cycling may hurt more but it'll be much quicker," Peter replied.

They fetched their bicycles and David pushed Peter's as far as the bridge.

"Leave the bikes where we unpacked the cars at the end of the gorge and try to get a lift in a car."

But Peter and Nicholas did not cycle very far for pedalling opened the cut on her injured knee and she found she could not pedal with one leg. They dismounted and hid the machines in a clump of bracken and walked up to the road.

Baker's van

"Here comes a baker's van," Nicholas said as he looked down the road. "We will ask for a lift."

The sky was overcast when they thanked the van driver and got out opposite the doctor's surgery in Bringewood Chase. The weather was certainly changing, for the sky to the west was thick with sinister clouds.

"No need for you to come in, Nicholas. Wait for me," Peter said. "Go and buy some bread. I'll meet you at the bridge soon as I can. If I'm more than an hour come and wait in the surgery."

There were only two women waiting to see the doctor so that she didn't have to wait very long. As Nicholas had said, Dr. Harvey was extremely nice.

"Ah, yes, nasty cut but we'll soon put it right," he said.

He talked to her cheerfully while cleaning and putting two stitches in the cut, covered it, and gave her an injection. He wished her a happy holiday and told her to come back if she had any pain or fever. She walked down to the bridge feeling much happier.

No sign of Nicholas

There was no sign of Nicholas.

She waited a long time, limped down the High Street, and enquired at the baker's shop. Nicholas had been there half an hour ago.

Perhaps he had gone back to the camp for some reason of his own? Peter decided to walk back herself and was on the way down the road when an elderly couple in a car stopped and offered her a lift.

Ten minutes later she was picking up her bicycle and wondering why Nicholas had not taken his.

She was glad to see Jenny waiting on the low bridge.

"You've been wonderfully quick, Peter. How did you get on? Where's Nicholas?"

"Hasn't he come back? We arranged to meet after I came out of the doctor's but he wasn't there."

"We'd better tell David and Tom at once," Jenny said. "They have managed to get that awful old punt to the bank and are trying to mend it."

"Nicholas missing? This is getting serious," David said grimly when he heard Peter's story. "We'd better get back to the camp." Just as they reached it the twins and Macbeth came running up.

"Have you seen Nicholas?" he called out to them.

"No, but we've seen those awful men working frantically at the well again. You know, Pudding Face and the old man," Mary told him. "They were absolutely livid because they couldn't pump the water out quickly enough. Then Mackie barked at them and they chased us."

"If you don't call off that dog, I'll brain him!" said Blandish

"But we escaped with our lives," Dickie added, "an' we came straight back here to tell you."

Just then Mackie barked again and the Lone Piners turned to see Blandish, his fat, pale face beaded with sweat and with an iron bar in his hand, standing a few feet away.

"If you don't call off that dog, I'll brain him," he said softly as he raised the bar.

David stepped forward and called Macbeth.

"Now listen carefully," the man went on. "You've been warned and I've no more time to waste. You've lost young Whiteflower. If you want to see him again you'll do as I say. Pack up and clear out of here, and when I know you've gone we'll see about the boy . . ."

This was more than Tom could stand.

"Have you kidnapped him? I bet you have. Now we know where we stand and we're going straight to the nearest telephone and fetch the police. Will you go, David, or shall I?"

But David was standing miserably in front of Blandish looking at the ground. Then he glanced unhappily at Peter and Jenny, almost as if he were beaten, and shook his head.

Peter's face was quite flushed with humiliation.

"David!" she pleaded.

"It's no use, we've got to go," David said shakily. "Surely you can all see that we must leave here now." He turned his back to Blandish and grimaced at them. "There's something going on round here that we don't understand, and we shall have to go if that's the only way we can get Nicholas back."

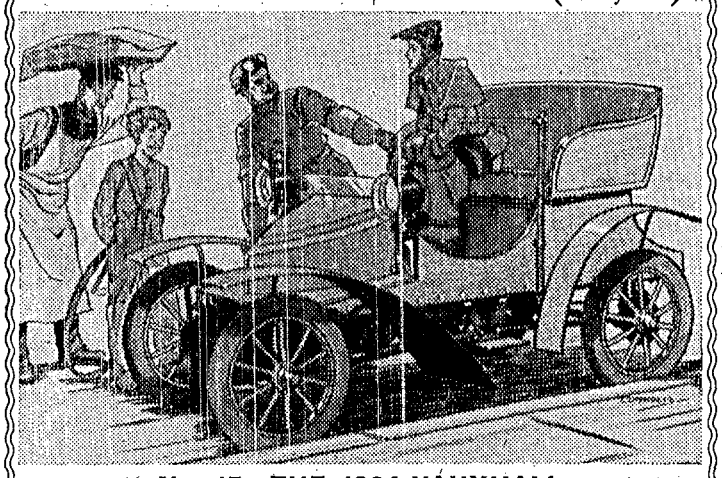
Blandish stepped forward.

"Glad you've seen sense at last," he sneered. "When I'm satisfied that you've cleared out of Bringewood for good I'll send young Whiteflower after you."

Continued on page 10

OLD-TIME CARS

(A series of twenty-four)



No. 17. THE 1904 VAUXHALL

THE Vauxhall Iron Works, which took its name from its site in London, built small marine engines for Thames tugs. In 1903 the firm produced its first car, and the following year (shortly before moving to Luton) this production model was introduced. It had a six-h.p. single-cylinder engine, and coil springs back and front. The peculiar shape of bonnet shows the origin of the fluting which has been a feature of all Vauxhalls until quite recently.

There were a great number of these single-cylinder cars on the market at this time, all priced between £150 and £200.

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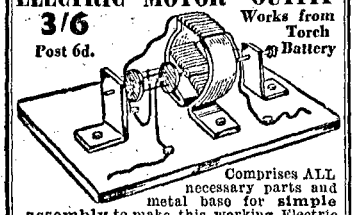

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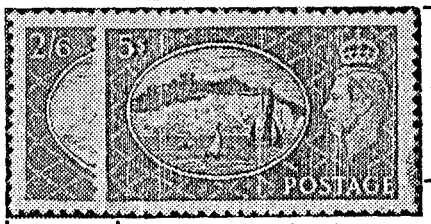

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Round the World with Stormalong

Trust Alan Villiers for a rattling fine sea-yarn. His Stormalong (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 12s. 6d.) is as fresh and breezy in this reprint as when it was first published 20 years ago. It is the story, founded on fact, of two 14-year-old Ipswich boys, nicknamed Stormalong and Hardcase, who sailed round the world with 12 other lads and some sailors in Alan Villiers' schoolship, the Joseph Conrad.

The Ipswich lads could hardly believe their good fortune when Captain Villiers offered to take them. But when the Joseph Conrad was zigzagging her way down the English Channel against squally headwinds, they soon found that a life on the ocean wave was several times tougher than they had ever imagined it.

"This isn't in the books," gasped Stormalong, after he and the rest of the starboard watch had been called out for the third time that night and got soaking wet.

TWO-YEAR TRIP

We see the world as these boys saw it on their voyage from Nassau, capital of the Bahamas, to New York, and from there to Rio de Janeiro, Cape Town, The East Indies, Melbourne, the Pacific, Cape Horn, and back to New York again.

In their trip of two years and three months Stormalong and his friends had many trials to face and overcome. There was the time when the Joseph Conrad went aground on a coral reef, and it was touch and go whether or not they could haul her off again before she broke up.

Then there was the test of their toughness, rounding Cape Horn. "Time and time again in the black, rain-filled night," writes Alan Villiers, "they were roused by the cry of all hands to take in some fighting topsail, or reef the three big topsails close down. It was no fun."

But there was plenty of fun at other times, especially when a little girl of 12, daughter of the chief of a remote island, wanted to marry Stormalong, and a ceremonial party of natives came aboard to bear him away to the wedding. But Stormalong, awakened from a peaceful sleep to face his would-be bride, was sure they only wanted to turn him into sausages, and he ran and hid himself in the hold till the bridal party left the ship.

Fun and adventure, storm and sunshine, empty seas and strange lands; they all combine to make this a first-class story.

STAMP NEWS

NEW ZEALAND'S annual Health Stamps, to be issued on August 20, will this year commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Boys' Brigade. One stamp will show a Girls' Life Brigade cadet, and the other a Boys' Brigade bugler.

MALTA has issued a set of three stamps to commemorate the George Cross awarded to the island during the war. They show a bombed-out family, a convoy entering harbour, and a searchlight battery.

STAMP Hobby Week, just held in Japan, has been commemorated by a ten-yen value.

RUSSIA has some new stamps to record her recent international competition for pianists and violinists.

SWEDEN has issued three new stamps to mark the World Cup soccer competition being held there next month.

One man and his bears

These seven little brown bear cubs are a great attraction at the Nuremberg Zoo in West Germany. Six of them are paying attention to their keeper, but the seventh feels much too tired!

No trespassing on fairy ground

In some parts of Ireland they still believe in fairies. Not long ago a score of Government workmen refused to build a fence across a certain piece of land because it is reputed to be the site of a palace of the fairies. Efforts were made to replace the men; but all in vain—none of the local folk was willing to incur bad luck by trespassing on the preserves of the "Little People".

Of course there was no sign of a palace, but everyone knows that fairy palaces can come and go like dew in summer. After all, Queen Mab herself comes:

"In shape no bigger than an agate-stone,
On the forefinger of an alderman,
Drawn with a team of little atomies,
Athwart men's noses as they lie asleep . . ."

In the end all was well and a way round the problem was found; literally, for the fence is going round the site instead of across it.

SECRET OF THE GORGE

Continued from page 9

"All right, sir. We'll go," David murmured, and Blandish nodded as if satisfied and strode off.

"Get moving," David muttered to the astounded Lone Piners who were standing round staring at him in amazement. "Pull the tents up. Pack up everything. When he turns round he's got to see us busy. Can't you see, you idiots?"

Tom looked at him in dawning comprehension and then rushed at a tent and began to get it down. The others followed his example. Blandish turned and watched them. Then, apparently satisfied, he disappeared over the meadow.

Then David—the old David they knew so well—looked up from his work and laughed.

"What a lot of idiots you are! We're not going to leave the gorge. We're going to find a new camp and watch those two nasty types. *And* we'll find Nicholas and the treasure."

While they struck camp, David told them his plans. He believed that Nicholas was somewhere in the village and that "Pudding Face" and possibly his accomplice must live there. He felt sure that Nicholas had been tricked and then captured and suggested that Jenny, Tom, and the twins should go to Bringewood Chase and look for him.

"While you are gone, Peter and I can use that old punt to carry all our stuff upstream," David went on. "We can try to moor it on the Manor side of the river and start a new camp."

Half an hour later the Lone Piners had their bikes, tents, bedding, and haversacks on the other side of the bow bridge. After a struggle they managed to tow the punt under the bridge where they loaded it with their equipment. Then Jenny, Tom, and the twins prepared to ride to the village.

As they were pushing their bikes along the track, David called out to them: "If you find Nicholas, come back here as soon as you can. If you haven't found a clue in three hours don't wait any longer but come back. One of us will be hiding somewhere near and waiting for you. Good luck!"

To be continued

PUZZLE PARADE

PICK THESE FLOWERS

Each of the following sentences contains the name of one or more flowers of garden and countryside.

HAS Terry lost the lead pencil which Ambrose gave him?

I hope to go to Iceland in early summer.

It's no use giving Jane money; she prefers books.

The pans you have been using are now clean again.

NAME IT

By putting the name of a fruit between the two rows of letters you can make eleven words.

A S I B A O C A F A D
T N P G E E D Y R E N

IN THE FAMILY

The names of relations given below appear to have become mixed. Can you sort them out?

FATHER Susie; Grandfather Tom Cobley; Sister Time; Mother Clock; Uncle Sally; Aunt Nature.

FIND THE WORDS

The answer to each clue is a word of four letters. When all the answers are set down the first and last letters of each will form the name of a very important person.

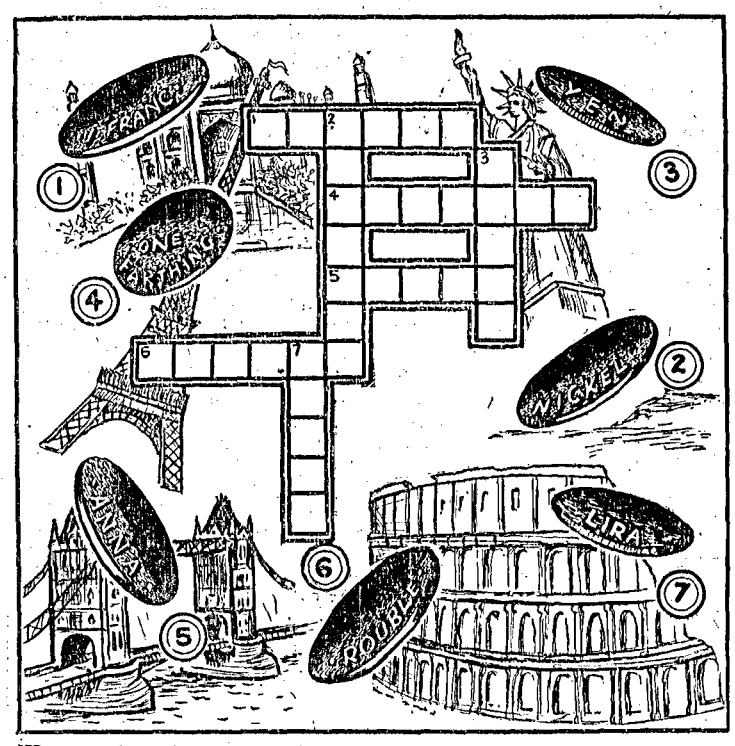
JOLLY nice with jam in it.
Comfort.
District.
Smart and fashionable in appearance.
Not near the ground.
Name for the Irish Republic.
At the back.

SPORTS PUZZLE

The letters of the words printed in italics can be re-arranged to spell a term used in rugby.

"YOU are in the fifteen on Saturday," said the school rugby captain, with a *nod* towards Tim. "In place of Smith," he added. "Fancy me being preferred to Smithy," gasped Tim. "Why not?" replied Pat. "You don't *cut* training like Smithy. Besides, look *how* he funks the scrums."

MONEY CROSSWORD



TO complete the crossword find the name of the country in which each coin illustrated is used. The drawings of famous buildings and structures will give a clue to some of the countries.

JUST A FEW WORDS

HERE is an entertaining way to increase your knowledge of words. Each numbered sentence below is followed by three answers or comments you might make; but, in each case, only one is correct and shows that you have understood the meaning of the word in italics. To answer five or six correctly is very good.

(Answers are given at foot of column)

1. He acted *feloniously*.
   A—Tried to be friendly.
   B—Did the right thing.
   C—Committed a crime.
2. She has been *immured* for a long time.
   A—Accustomed to hardship.
   B—Free from disease.
   C—Shut away from the world.
3. The burglar carried a *lethal* weapon.
   A—Capable of killing.
   B—Against the law.
   C—A heavy weight.
4. She is well known for her *candour*.
   A—Sweet disposition.
   B—Shrewd brain.
   C—Frankness of manner.
5. *Calligraphy* is a dying art.
   A—Map reading.
   B—Fine handwriting.
   C—Delicate embroidery.
6. I have just left my *adversary*.
   A—Lawyer.
   B—Opponent.
   C—Publicity agent.

JACKO'S IDEA GOES WITH A SWING

Jacko had been given an old boat which was of no further use on the Jackotown Children's Boating Pool. With Chimp's help he got it home, and had a "brilliant" idea. Chimp had painful memories of many of Jacko's "brilliant" ideas, and felt rather doubtful, but he joined in as they set the boat down on two chairs under the tree. Jacko tied ropes at bow and stern and asked Chimp to climb on to the branch above them. "Now tie the ends to the branch," said Jacko. When all was ready Jacko took away the chairs—and there was a fine swing-boat. Soon Baby, Bouncer, and their friends were having a wonderful time, and Chimp had to admit that this *was* a "brilliant" idea.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Pick these flowers. Aster; rose; celandine; anemone; pansy.

Name it. Pomegranate—apt; son; imp; beg; age; ore; cad; any; far; ate; den.

In the family. Father Time; Grandfather Clock; Sister Susie; Mother Nature; Uncle Tom Cobley; Aunt Sally.

Find the words.
TART
EASE
AREA
CHIC
HIGH
EIRE
REAR

Sports puzzle. Touchdown.

Money-crossword.
ACROSS. 1. France; 4 England; 5. India; 6 Russia.
DOWN. 2 America; 3 Japan; 7 Italy.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER

C	O	N	S	I	D	E	R	S
E	P	E	E	■	E	A	S	T
L	■	V	A	U	N	T	■	A
T	O	E	■	R	■	E	A	R
■	B	R	I	G	A	N	D	■
M	E	■	N	E	T	■	E	D
E	Y	E	S	■	T	O	N	E
A	■	B	E	G	I	N	■	N
D	E	B	T	■	C	E	N	T

JUST A FEW WORDS

1. C Feloniously means wickedly; with deliberate intention to commit crime. (From Latin *fellonem*, a criminal.)
2. C To immure is to wall in; to shut up; imprison. (From Latin *in* and *murus*, a wall.)
3. A Lethal means deadly; death-dealing. (From Latin *lethum* or *letum*, death.)
4. C Candour is sincerity; openness. (From Latin *candor*, whiteness, purity.)
5. B Calligraphy is fine penmanship; characteristic style of writing. (From Greek *kallos*, beauty, and *graphein*, to write.)
6. B An adversary is an opponent. (From Latin *adversus*, against.)

TWO SPARROWS AND A FLOWER BOWL

BETTY'S hobby was bird-watching in the garden. To attract the birds she had a big bird-table, nesting-boxes, and net-bags full of the kind of things birds use to line their nests.

"You spoil the birds, Betty," said her father. "They'll get too lazy to do anything for themselves."

But he was wrong, because two sparrows did something for themselves; and they showed Betty what she had forgotten to give them.

One day she heard a queer noise coming from some flower-pots outside the potting-shed. Very quietly Betty tiptoed towards the noise, and it was then that the two sparrows gave her a new idea for her garden. Near some flower-pots was a shallow bowl full of rain water, and the queer noise was a sparrow taking a bath in it. Then Betty noticed something still more amusing; a second sparrow was perched on the rim of a flower-pot awaiting its turn to bathe.

After both sparrows had bathed, they perched on the fence, cleaned their beaks, and ruffled their feathers to let the warm sun dry them.

When Betty told her father about the sparrows bathing he laughed. "Now," he said, "you

want that flower-bowl for a bird bath?"

"Yes, please," said Betty. "The sparrows had much more fun bathing in that than they did in the puddle on the drive. I should have thought of a bird bath before."

So now Betty collects rain water to fill the sparrows' bath, and she watches carefully for any other clever ideas the birds may give her.

LUCKY DIP

ALL CHANGE

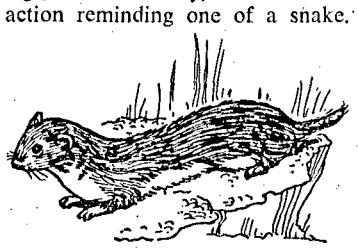
ABSENT-MINDED professor: "Dear me, how you have changed! You once had a rosy complexion, but now you are pale. You were quite well built, but now you're rather thin. Dear, dear me, Mr. Gordon, you have changed."

"But I'm not Mr. Gordon."

"Well! So you've even changed your name!"

SPOT THE . . .

WEASEL as it glides swiftly forward across the ground, the short legs, slender body, and sinuous action reminding one of a snake.



An average specimen when full grown measures about nine inches. The coat is a sandy-russet above, fading to creamy-white on the underparts. Hunting by scent, the weasel will relentlessly pursue its intended victim, perhaps a rabbit, mouse, vole, or small bird.

OTHER WORLDS

IN the evening Jupiter is in the south and Saturn is low in the south-east. In the morning Venus is in the east and Mars in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at six o'clock on the morning of Friday, May 16.

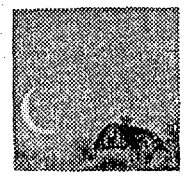


FIGURE IT OUT

ASTRONOMY is 1 derful,
And interesting 2;
The Ear 3 volves around the Sun,
Which makes a year 4 you.

The Moon is dead and calm
By law of phy 6 great;
It's 7 where the stars alive
Do nightly scintil 8.

If watchful Providence be 9,
With good in 10 tions fraught,
Did not keep up its grand design,
We soon should come to 0.

Astronomy is 1 derful,
But it's 2 80 4
1 man 2 grasp, and that is why
I'd better say no more.

Getting to grips with a million

A MILLION is something which few of us can understand, so big is it. For instance, a million pence is £4166 13s. 4d. Counting a million at 100 a minute non-stop would take practically seven days. A car travelling continuously at 100 miles an hour would cover a million miles in one year and a little more than 51 days. A million days is approximately 2739 years. Another 800 years must come and go, therefore, before it can be said that it is a million days since Christ was born.

We are never likely to see a million people all gathered together, but it has been calculated that if a million people stood in single file they would reach in a straight line for nearly 300 miles, about as far as from London to Carlisle. The population of Greater London would form eight queues as long as this.

If we were in a non-stop train travelling at 60 m.p.h. it would take us about two years to cover a million miles.

If you thought you were a millionaire and drew all your money out of the bank in £1 notes and counted them at the rate of one a second without stopping to eat or sleep, it would be more than eleven days before you could be absolutely sure that you were worth a million.

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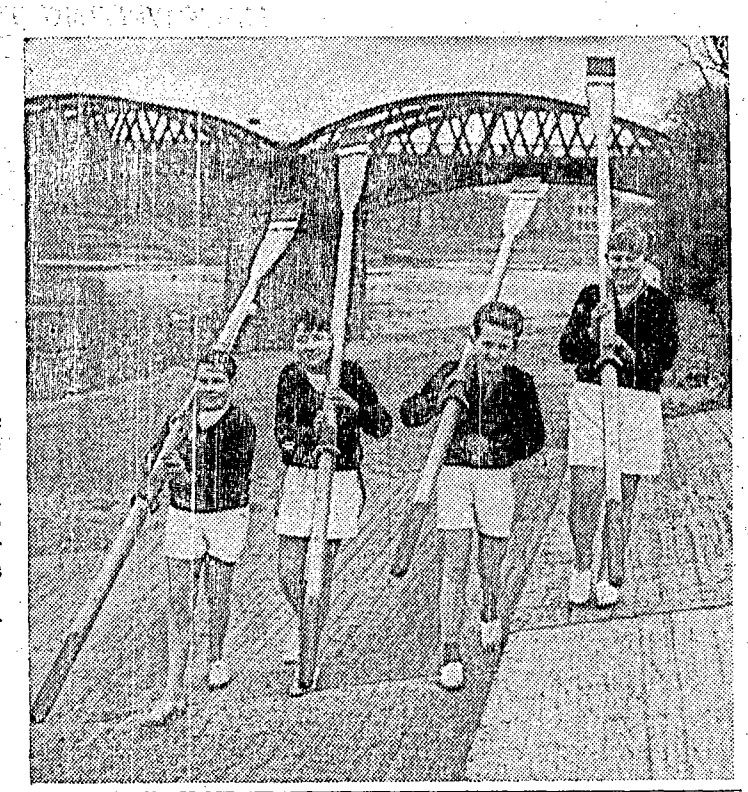
World Cup preview

A PREVIEW of England's chances in the World Soccer Cup to be played for next month will be given on Sunday when England travel to Moscow to meet Russia. The two teams are in the same quarter of the draw for the World Cup and one or the other is expected to qualify for the quarter-final matches.

England's 20 players who are making the trip include all the probable World Cup players.

On Saturday the successful England schoolboys team go to Ibrox Park, Glasgow, for their second international match this year against Scotland.



Schoolboy oarsmen

These young oarsmen seen by the River Thames at Barnes are from the Chiswick County School. They have been practising for competitions during the summer.

BRITAIN'S TEAM OF YOUNG SWIMMERS

ONE of the most important pre-Empire Games swimming internationals takes place this weekend at Blackpool, when Britain meets Holland. As in 1957, when the match was drawn with 78 points each, the most exciting races should be those between our own women swimmers and the Dutch girls, who are rated the best in Europe. They broke several world records in last year's match with Britain.

One eagerly-awaited clash is that between 14-year-old Diana Wilkinson, and Cornelia Gastelaars, the fastest European swimmer. It is generally considered that this Dutch physiotherapist would have won an Olympic gold medal in Melbourne had Holland not withdrawn from the Games.

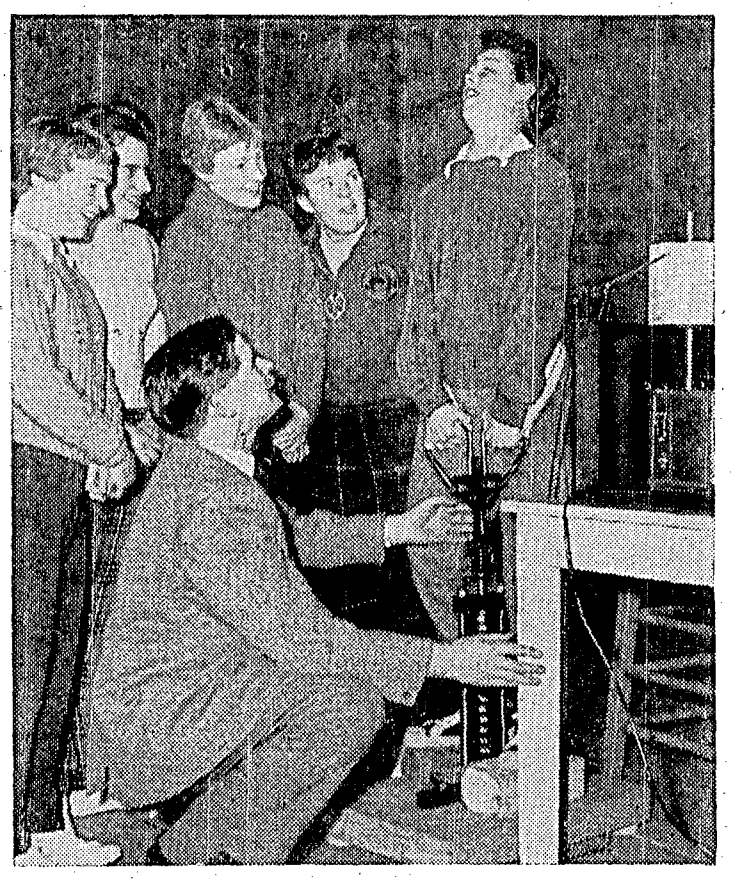
Three newcomers to international swimming are among the team selected to represent Britain—Jacqueline Dyson, aged 15, of Kingston, in the 220 yards breaststroke; Malcolm Barnes (Stoke Newington), in the 220 yards freestyle; and 14-year-old Ilford girl, Pat Baines, 220 yards butterfly.

The British swimmers have improved enormously over the past year, as we saw a few weeks ago when they easily beat Germany, the only team to defeat them last year. This weekend's racing will give a further opportunity of assessing their chances in the European Championships to be held in August.

Britain and Holland also meet in a water polo match on Saturday at Cardiff. Among the players chosen for Britain are Ian Johnson, of Motherwell and Scotland, who returns to the British goal after a break of four years; and Austen Fincham, former South African international, who has lived in London for the past five years, and plays for Polytechnic.

Putting strength into her legs

Diana Wilkinson, our 14-year-old swimming champion, uses a machine designed to strengthen leg muscles. Known as a Leg Dynometer, it is here being supervised by Mr. John Mather of Loughborough College.



Manager without a team

ON Thursday the Fulham soccer team will play a Belfast Select side on the ground of Belfast Celtic—the team that has not played a match in ten years.

In 1948 Belfast Celtic closed down, hoping that they might be able to start again one day. So the team manager, Mr. Elisha Scott, was retained.

As an active manager, he daily goes to the ground, reads through any mail, has a look at the three odd-job men who keep the pitch in perfect order—and keeps an eye on any young players that he could sign on if the club should ever start up again.

Tennis contests with Brazil and France

THIS weekend Britain's men tennis players take the first step along the road which they hope will lead them to the European Zone final of the Davis Cup. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday they will be meeting Brazil at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne.

The British team consists of Mike Davies, Roger Becker, Bobby Wilson, and Billy Knight, the new British Hard Courts Champion.

The Brazilian players, whom we have already seen in action in this country, play mainly on hard courts, and are not at their best on grass; the British team should win this tie to meet Belgium at Scarborough next month.

Our women players will also be in action this weekend when they meet France in Paris. A few days later they will be all joining the best of the world's players gathered for the French Championships.

Shirley Bloomer should be in her element on these slow hard courts. Last year she won the title, and her form in winning the British Championships a few weeks ago suggests that she can win again in Paris next week.

New Australian sports centre

IN the grounds of Melbourne University is a wonderful new sports centre, complete with cinder track, gymnasium, heated swimming pool, and provision for many other sports. It has been established with £200,000 bequeathed for the purpose by the late Sir Frank Beaurepaire, a former world swimming champion.

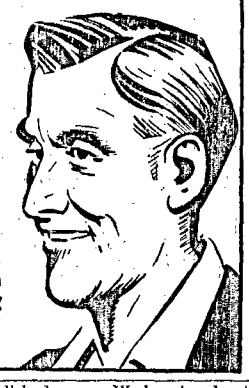
The centre is very busy at present as Australian athletes prepare to visit Cardiff for this year's British Empire Games.

SPORTING GALLERY

DOUGLAS INSOLE

Essex have never won the County Cricket Championship, but under the enthusiastic leadership of Douglas Insole they are an attractive team to watch. Douglas, born at Clapton in 1926, plays with tremendous zest and imparts it to the men under his command. He is particularly keen on a high fielding standard.

Captain of Cambridge in 1949, he became captain of Essex a year later, having first played for the county in 1947. He is also a Soccer Blue and was in the Corinthian-Casuals team defeated in the Amateur Cup Final of 1956.



It is characteristic that his best performances on the cricket field have been against the stronger counties—219 not out against Yorkshire in 1949 and 5 for 22 v. Surrey in 1955. He also has the distinction of scoring eight runs off a ball from Tony Lock.

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Which cricketer has scored most centuries in one season?
2. How many nations have qualified for the final rounds of the World Soccer Cup?
3. What is the highest number of goals ever scored by a footballer in one match?
4. In which sport would you "jack-knife"?
5. Who was the last Frenchman to win the Wimbledon singles title?
6. How did lacrosse get its name?

1. Denis Compton—18 centuries in 1947. 2. Sixteen. 3. Thirteen goals scored by John Petrie for Arbroath in a Scottish Cup Tie in 1885. 4. Diving. 5. Yvon Petra, in 1946. 6. French sailors who saw North American Indians playing the game gave it this name because the stick is shaped like a bishop's crozier—la crosse.

Training tomorrow's golfers

THE Australian method of spotting young tennis players at an early age and giving them coaching is now being applied to golf. Australian professionals have formed a non-profit company, Golf Foundation Ltd., to teach schoolchildren how to play the game and to give further lessons to those who show promise.

In Melbourne alone the company has 1500 boys and girls as pupils for this term. Boys outnumber the girls by three to one. Very few have their own clubs, but these can be provided.

A similar scheme has existed in this country for over six years. More than 300 schools belong to Britain's Golf Foundation, and through it some 6000 youngsters have been introduced to the game.

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